

The most recent job numbers are starting to move in the right direction: the economic numbers indicate that the labor market has begun to stabilize, but unemployment numbers remain far too high. Oregonians continue to struggle with a sluggish economy that is only beginning to generate the jobs we need.



Generating jobs and strengthening our economy is my top priority in Congress. Congressman Blumenauer has been working with colleagues on a number of proposals that cut taxes for small businesses and invest in America's infrastructure and clean energy resources, building on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that cut taxes for working Americans. These initiatives have put millions of Americans back to work and the economy on the path to a sustainable recovery.

While efforts have begun to bear fruit, Republicans in Congress have focused their energies on denying small business tax credits, assistance to struggling families, and investments in projects that create living-wage jobs here in America. This is a sure-fire way to set us off course. Small businesses are critical to a robust American economy and play a key role in its recovery. They drive innovation and create jobs; in fact, small businesses created over 65% of the new jobs created in the country during the last 15 years. Here are just a few ways Congressman Blumenauer has worked to help small businesses:

- The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act of 2010, passed by the House on March 24, 2010 - Increases the deductions for start-up expenses, so that more people will start businesses; excludes 100% of small business capital gains from taxation, encouraging investment; and expands Build America Bonds, funding projects that put people to work.
- **The HIRE Act, signed into law by President Obama on March 18, 2010 - institutes a payroll tax break for businesses that hire unemployed workers and extends generous expensing rules for small businesses.** Additionally, small businesses can receive a \$1,000 tax credit if they keep newly hired workers on the job for at least a year.
- The Jobs for Main Street Act, passed by the House on December 16, 2009 - helps small businesses by eliminating fees on Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to make them

more affordable for small companies, and by increasing loan guarantees for small business.

Investment in America's infrastructure is also vital to our economic recovery, creating jobs and laying the physical foundation for stronger communities. For every billion dollars spent rebuilding America, 25,000 jobs are created. So far, the efforts of Congress and President Obama to invest in our nation's infrastructure and communities have generated over two million jobs. These are just a few examples of benefits to Oregon:

1. \$140 million to jumpstart three wind farm construction projects in Oregon providing more jobs in rural communities;
2. \$50 million for Solar Energy Technologies, with \$400,000 dedicated to Portland's Neighborhood Solar Initiatives;



3. \$53.3 million for Tri-Met projects, putting nearly 2,000 Oregonians back to work; and
4. \$13 million to help support the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of low income housing.

These projects are vital to spurring job growth and putting Americans back to work, but we must also help families in need while generating demand for goods and services in the economy. Congressman Blumenauer was honored to fight for unemployment benefits extension that was recently passed to extend to December. He also worked to pass the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act, which ended the cycle of stop-gap measures and threats of payment cuts by providing a permanent fix. He is committed to working with my House and Senate colleagues to provide assistance to families so that their basic needs can be met while jobs in the community continue to increase.

The economic challenges we face are great, but by investing in small businesses and rebuilding

and renewing America, we can create jobs now. By lending assistance to families struggling in these difficult times, we can stimulate demand and further boost the economy, creating even more jobs. These investments also boost the country's global competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, and repair our dilapidated infrastructure. While this recession has been devastating for so many families, Congressman Blumenauer is working hard to turn the corner.

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